

CONFIRMED MINUTES

NCFG COUNCIL MEETING



At the **NCFG Council Meeting** on **19 Jul 2023** these minutes were **confirmed with the following changes:**

See Notes below

Name:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
Date:	Wednesday, 24 May 2023
Time:	5:53 pm to 9:16 pm (NZST)
Location:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, 595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH
Board Members:	ALAN STRONG (Chair), CHRIS BRANKIN, DAVE BARRON, Dave Coll, RICHARD O'KEEFE, TREVOR ISITT
Attendees:	DEBBIE AMBLER, Rasmus Gabrielsson
Apologies:	KEN LLOYD, GRAEME NAHKIES, NIALL COSTER, PHILLIP MUSSON
Guests/Notes:	Cr Coster (via video link until 6.02 pm), John Roche, Paul Ball

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Welcome by Chairman

1.2 Karakia

1.3 Interests Register

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

February 2023 Council Meeting 15 Feb 2023, the minutes were confirmed as presented.

Cr Coster noted he was impressed at the fullness and standard of all staff reports. Due to internet difficulties Cr Coster, who was attending the meeting remotely via video link, left the meeting at 6.02 pm.



Internet Issues in Conference Room

To assist R Gabrielsson in sorting issues with the internet connection and set up IT in the conference room.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2023
Owner: DAVE BARRON



Confirmation of Minutes Dated 24 February 2023

That the minutes of the 24 February 2023 Council meeting be confirmed with the following changes:

1. That Cr Coll and R Gabrielson names be changed to upper case;
2. Item 1.4 Change 'Conformation' to 'Confirmation of Minutes';
3. Item 5.1 Clarify the name of the Liaison person between Winnemem Wintu and New Zealand Management Agencies.

Decision Date: 24 May 2023
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconded: Dave Coll
Outcome: Approved

1.5 Co-Opt C Brankin to the NCFG Council

C Brankin advised that his term as Ngai Tahu appointed Statutory Advisor to the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council (NCFG Council) would end on 30 June 2023, and that other nominees were being considered for the position. A discussion was held on co-opting C Brankin for the remainder of this Council's term to November 2024 for continuity, and to provide assistance to the next appointed Statutory Advisor from Ngai Tahu on the NCFG Council.



Co-opt C Brankin to the NCFG Council

That C Brankin be co-opted to the NCFG Council if the Ngai Tahu representative to this Council is changed.

Decision Date: 24 May 2023
Mover: ALAN STRONG
Seconded: TREVOR ISITT
Outcome: Approved

2. FOR DECISION

2.1 Regulation Setting Policy

The approved Council Policy for the regulation review process setting to enable staff to undertake consultation and make recommendations on sports fishing and game bird hunting regulation changes was discussed.

It was agreed the Council's Regulation Setting Policy (approved May 2022) required further work on its formatting and wording, to improve clarity and direction to staff.



Regulation Setting Policy

To re-word the Regulation Setting Policy and formulate into a Policy paper.

Due Date: 19 Jul 2023
Owner: ALAN STRONG

2.2 Anglers Notice 2023

John Roche representing the Canterbury Fly Fishing Club spoke to the Club's letter outlining their concern about the angling pressure that the sensitive waters in the region were receiving, particularly from international anglers. The Club was supportive of the proposed regulation changes, but noted concern that possible reduction in the number of rivers proposed to be listed as Designated Waters may force international anglers to focus their efforts in other pressure-sensitive areas not listed, and that this could have a detrimental effect on those fisheries.

He asked on behalf of the Club that fly fishing-only waters (currently five lakes) remain at the status quo. He stated that many club members felt the quality of the angling experience at these lakes could be adversely affected by the introduction of regulations allowing soft bait and spin fishing techniques to be used in those lakes.

Lake Marymere and Lake Monk were discussed as Lakes that required preserving. Noted that the catch-and-release method was not seen as a management tool. Thought could be given to selected harvest on these Lakes e.g. minimum to maximum size and/or a narrower window to harvest fish.

One of the reasons for removing the flying fishing designation from Lake Monk was that it joined larger river systems where fish could migrate through the Lake to important spawning grounds. There are currently five fly-fishing lakes in the high country and Lake Monk would be the only Lake to have this designation removed.

More work was required to set a framework and flowchart on how decisions are reached in setting designations for lakes with specific regulations. This would be a large piece of work and would require a link to a framework in the 10-Year Management Plan.



2023 Anglers Notice

That Council accepts the staff view on item 12 - Remove fly fishing only designation for Lake Monk (Catherine).

Decision Date: 24 May 2023
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconder: Dave Coll
Outcome: Approved



2023 Anglers Notice

1. That the North Canterbury Backcountry Fishery move to the Designated Waters fisheries system.
2. That the Hope River Designated Water Fishery (commonly referred to as the Lewis Pass Fishery) includes all rivers and tributaries upstream of the State Highway 7 Road Bridge.
3. That the Upper Waiau Uwha River Designated Water Fishery includes all rivers and tributaries above the confluence of the Hope River, except Lake Guyon.
4. That Rule 1.5 from the Central South Island Anglers Notice is added to the North Canterbury Anglers Notice.
5. Reduce the daily bag limit on Lake Marymere from two to one trout with a maximum length of 400mm.
6. Reduce the daily bag limit on the Upper Waimakariri River and key tributaries from two to one trout with a maximum length of 400mm.
7. Align the season dates for key rivers and lakes feeding into Lake Coleridge.
8. Open the Halswell river and Halswell Canal fishery year-round downstream of the Neill's Road Bridge.
9. Open Lake Courtney to all anglers.
10. The Roto Kahatu Lakes are made a winter fishery only from 1 April to 30 October, and fishing outside of this time is by permit only.
11. Approve the following changes to the designated North Canterbury Coarse fisheries
 1. Monopolies Pond is to be removed as a coarse fishery;
 2. The Gravel and Sands ponds to become a designated coarse fishery;
 3. Remove the daily bag limit and maximum size limit for perch in the North Canterbury region.
12. Remove fly fishing only designation for Lake Monck (Catherine).

Decision Date: 24 May 2023
Mover: DAVE BARRON
Seconder: TREVOR ISITT
Outcome: Approved

2.3 Sea-Run Salmon Bag Limit Recommendation

Noted the sea-run salmon bag limit recommendation was required before all final counts for the season were completed. Concern over salmon returns due to ocean temperatures being higher than normal and having smaller fish returning due to suboptimal conditions and competition for food was discussed. The need to ensure that data for decision-making is accurate was raised. Discussion on changing anglers' mindset from "harvest" to sustainably "managing the salmon sports fishery resource" for population recovery required ongoing communications to stakeholders to drive home key messages.



Sea-Run Salmon Season Bag Limit

That the sea-run salmon season bag limit for the 2023/24 fishing season for North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish and Game regions complies with the Threshold Management Strategy and is based on the final estimates of the combined Waimakariri, Rakaia, and Rangitata sea-run spawning population size available no later than 15 June 2023, as follow:

1. Combined spawning population size in excess of 5,100 fish - retain two fish season bag limit. For the season bag limit to increase, the spawning population size will need to exceed this number for three consecutive years to ensure recruitment benefits are achieved;
2. Combined spawning population size between 1,200 and 5,100 fish - retain two fish season bag limit;
3. Combined spawning population size of less than 1,200 fish - implement one fish season bag limit.

Decision Date: 24 May 2023
Mover: CHRIS BRANKIN
Seconder: DAVE BARRON
Outcome: Approved

2.4 Licence Fee Consultation / Recommendation

Discussion on the proposed licence fee recommendation, NZC approval of Northland Fish and Game regions contestable funding bid, and the inequities of the national resource allocations were had.



Licence Fee Recommendation 2023/24

That the 2023/24 adult whole-season sports fish licence fee is set at \$153.00 and the adult whole-season game licence is set at \$113.00 (inclusive of a \$5.00 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to the remaining licence fees and categories, including a \$5.00 fee for the Sea-Run Salmon Licence (as a cost recovery mechanism).

Decision Date: 24 May 2023
Mover: DAVE BARRON
Seconder: RICHARD O'KEEFE
Outcome: Approved



Licence Fee Recommendation 2023/24

That a new licence category is established called a Designated Waters Licence, available as a \$5.00 annual licence fee per Fish and Game region for resident anglers, and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40.00 with a maximum allocation of five Designated Waters Licences available to be purchased by non-resident anglers per Fish and Game region (as a cost recovery mechanism).

Decision Date: 24 May 2023
Mover: Dave Coll
Seconder: TREVOR ISITT
Outcome: Approved



Licence Fee Recommendation 2023/24

That the Chairman write to NZC outlining the NCFG concerns regarding the \$5.00 sea-run salmon endorsement fee and the granting of part of the Northland Fish and Game regions contestable funding application relating to a permanent employment of an additional staff member.

Due Date: 19 Jul 2023
Owner: ALAN STRONG

2.5 Reserves Policy - Consultation / Recommendation



National Reserves Policy

Cr O'Keefe to draft a letter for review, and then write to NZC seeking clarification on how the national reserves calculations are reached and when would any likely top-up of the reserve is made. Also what type of reserve is the national body operating on - for example accounting or asset based.

Due Date: 19 Jul 2023
Owner: RICHARD O'KEEFE

2.6 Residency Definitions - Consultation / Recommendations



Resident / Non-resident Definition

R Gabrielsson to reply to NZC in support of the recommendation to align the resident/non-resident definition to align with the Immigration Act and Department of Conservation Taupo.

Due Date: 19 Jul 2023
Owner: Rasmus Gabrielsson

2.7 Maimai Fund Proposal

Council considered a proposed request to NZC asking that the licence revenue collected from maimai holders on Te Waihora and Muriwai Lagoon be exempt from regional licence sales targets and national levy calculations, so that the fee could be entirely contributed to the maimai fund to better empower NCFG to carry out their Treaty obligations with Ngai Tahu.



Maimai Fund Proposal

Write a letter to NZC requesting that NZC instruct the Licence Working Party to exclude 300 licences from calculations of NCFG's game bird licence sales target and NZC Levy requirements.

Cr's O'Keefe and Coll were against.

Decision Date: 24 May 2023
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconder: ALAN STRONG
Outcome: Approved

3. STANDARD REPORTS

3.1 Chairman's Report

3.2 Operational Progress / Staff Activity Report

Noted that all staff reports were of a high standard.

A process for how to deliver updates to Councillors between council meetings would be provided by R Gabriellsson.

3.3 Finance Report

D Ambler to add explanatory information to and update the cash flow forecast to include the balance of all available funds and resend to Council.

R Gabriellsson to provide an asset expenditure plan along side the current asset register.

3.4 Health and Safety Report

Jet boat training from minutes dated 15 February 2023 - with his training complete, H Graham-Samson is now ready to be formally certified to operate the jet boat.

Cr Isitt praised the Health and Safety briefing carried out by R Cosgrove for compliance during the opening weekend of game bird hunting season.

Discussion on the merits of requesting NZC completing an internal audit on NCFG health and safety procedures, rather than seeking this type of service and support from an external auditor.

3.5 RMA Report

3.6 NZC Report

3.7 FIF Governors Update

Cr Strong reported that the FIF Project was on budget and is currently applying for resource consent to (1) divert and return the south branch of Glenariffe stream back to its original flow path and (2) gain permission to install the new bridge (or culvert) that will be required.



FI Project - Naming of Property

That the name for the property purchased by NCFG in the Glenariffe catchment be named 'McIntyre Wetland'.

Decision Date: 24 May 2023
Mover: CHRIS BRANKIN
Seconder: RICHARD O'KEEFE
Outcome: Approved

3.8 Confirmation of Reports



That all the Reports provided be accepted:

That all the Reports provided be accepted:

Decision Date:	24 May 2023
Mover:	TREVOR ISITT
Seconder:	DAVE BARRON
Outcome:	Approved

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 General business

5. PUBLIC SESSION

5.1 Public Session

6. FOR INFORMATION

7. Close Meeting

7.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: No date for the next meeting has been set.

Signature: _____

Date: _____